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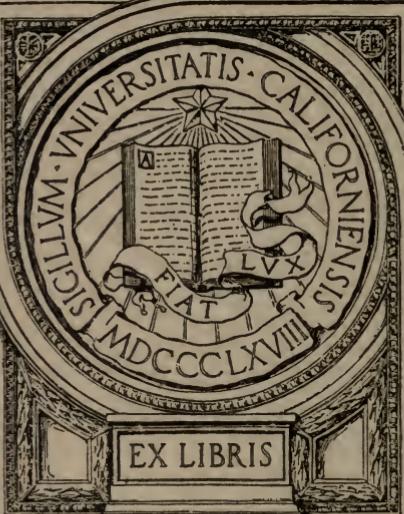
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GIFT OF
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EASTERN
FARMERS
AND
EASTERN
FAIRS

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA.

OBSERVATIONS

written
BY
J. A. FILCHER
SECRETARY
CALIFORNIA STATE
AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY



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NO. 5551
AUGUST 1960

OBSERVATIONS

ON

EASTERN FARMERS AND EASTERN FAIRS.

To His Excellency, GEO. C. PARDEE,

Governor of California,

DEAR SIR: It was your pleasure to appoint the undersigned a delegate from this State to the Farmers' National Congress, which held its meeting this year from the 9th to the 12th of October, inclusive, in the city of Rock Island, State of Illinois. This Congress was attended by more than seven hundred registered delegates, representing a large majority of the states of the Union, besides about three hundred farmers who came in from near-by localities to listen to the proceedings. The delegates were generally representative men in their calling, and among those who contributed papers were some of the most distinguished specialists in America in the line of agricultural pursuits.

I became impressed with the general aims and wants of the Eastern farmer, which on many important subjects harmonize with the aims and wants of the farmer in the West. Markets, transportation, water navigation, fertilization, postal facilities, agricultural education, seed selection, dairying, stock breeding, etc., are subjects that interest all farmers in all parts of the country, but where the Pacific Coast farmer and the Eastern farmer would divide would be on the subjects of irrigation, methods of cultivation, and the character of products likely to prove most profitable. It may be mentioned though that the states bordering the west bank of the Missouri River and the Rocky Mountain states, as well as those of the Southwest, are becoming keenly alive to the importance of irrigation.

Horticulture, the great subject with us, occupied little attention of the Congress. I became impressed also that the average farmer of the Middle West gives more attention to the selection of his seed and the improving of his live stock, horses, cattle, hogs, and sheep, than does the average California farmer, and the deep interest the Eastern farmer manifests in movements for improving the facilities for agricultural education is quite apparent. Every farmer, almost, worthy of the name, seems to be impressed with the importance of having his sons know something of the science of farming, while farmers' wives seem to be just as anxious that their daughters shall know something

of the science of domestic economy. One thing that tends to promote greater interest in advanced subjects and methods among the Eastern and Middle West farmers is their better organization, made possible by a denser population. There is hardly a county in those states that does not have an Agricultural Society, and Farmers' Clubs are almost as common as country schools. This gives opportunity for contact and agitation and leads to increased effort and emulation. Thus by organization much is done that individuals could not or would not do. The club members can send an emissary in search of the best seed corn, or the best wheat, or oats, and the members share in the benefit. The club, by each member contributing, can buy an improved bred stallion, an improved bull, boar, or ram, and these improved animals soon manifest themselves on the stock of the community, and while the tax on each is light the improvement is great and all in the district share in the benefit. By organization and community effort the farmers of the East, and particularly of the Middle West, are making great advance in all the lines of their calling, and they consider State and local fairs as essential to their interests and enlightenment regarding the best that is being done in their line.

STATE FAIRS.

It was the expressed desire of the Directors of the State Agricultural Society that while East I should improve the opportunity to visit the officers and fair grounds of some of the successful Agricultural Societies in the Middle Western States and glean suggestions and ideas therefrom which might be of value in the work of building up the Agricultural Society of California.

In pursuance of this object I visited the officers and fair grounds of the Agricultural Societies of Minnesota, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kansas, and Nebraska. In all of these states the annual fairs are looked forward to as the farmers' great holiday season, where they not only obtain diversion, but rest and visit and get acquainted, and learn from one another as well as from the exhibits the latest and best of the things in which they are interested, and as a result the balance sheet of these societies each year of late has shown a surplus. This surplus, reinforced by State appropriations from time to time, is used in extending their field of usefulness or in the erection of new and modern exhibition buildings.

There is much effort, study, and money put into State Fairs in the East. The people believe in them, and the farmer, manufacturer, and merchant, as well as the State at large, profit by them. To summarize the benefits derived from fairs as claimed by Mr. E. W. Randall, secretary of the Minnesota State Fair: "They are valuable to the historian as mile-posts of progress; they provide object lessons on the resources

of the localities in which they are held; they mark the progress, the ingenuity, the enterprise, and the energy of the people; they are educational, giving lessons of practical value; they provide holidays for the masses; they stimulate and encourage all lines of production; they broaden and improve markets; they present an illustrated record of development, and they are of direct value to the cities, and great general value to the states, in which they are held." It may be said in addition that they stimulate home pride, produce a greater degree of contentment, and tend to hold farmers to their homes and induce city people to invest in farms. In short, they lead to rural improvement and development.

MINNESOTA.

The fair grounds of Minnesota consist of 200 acres, located just midway between the cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis, about five miles from the center of each, with a combined population of about 400,000 people. All their improvements are in one inclosure. On these grounds they have some eighteen buildings, exclusive of thirteen horse and cattle barns and eight stables for trotting horses. Their grand stand is a double decker, conceded not to be desirable, and will seat about 6,000 people, and in addition to this they have uncovered seats (bleachers) for about 12,000 people. For general admission to the grounds they charge 50 cents, to the grand stand and bleachers 25 cents, and to the grand-stand boxes 50 cents. When the races are over in the afternoon the grand stand is cleared, and for the evening entertainment, consisting generally of vaudeville, athletics, etc., on ground in front of the grand stand, illuminated for the occasion by search lights, another admission is charged.

Among the permanent buildings of the Society on the grounds is a hotel which brings a big rental during fair week, and this, with restaurants, soft drink stands, and other concessions, makes their privileges very valuable. Their show buildings are splendidly designed for the purpose intended, being well lighted and well ventilated. Some of the latest are brick or concrete with slate roofing, and are presumed to be practically fire-proof. They have just completed a mammoth amphitheater for showing and judging live stock, constructed mainly of concrete and steel, at a cost of \$100,000. It is oval shaped, with exterior dimensions 200 by 359 feet, arena 120 by 270 feet, and seats 7,500 people. It is the latest and best building of the kind in the United States. Others have fine, large, fire-proof live-stock amphitheaters, but the one in Minnesota must stand as a model and stimulus to others for the present, at least. It is a splendid recognition by the Society and the State of the large and growing live-stock interests of Minnesota. Their main exhibition building is intended largely for such displays as are made by merchants, traders, etc., and these displays in

all Eastern fairs constitute an attractive feature. The merchant builds his own booth or cases, many of which are very attractive, and these are left in place ready for use from year to year as the seasons come around. In some instances large merchants, and in many instances manufacturers, have their own buildings, constructed and maintained on the State Fair grounds as a concession from the directors. On the Minnesota fair grounds the Minnesota pioneers, the Minnesota women, and the Minnesota New Englanders have their respective buildings, and almost every important paper in the State has its own small but generally artistic structure for the exclusive use of its correspondents and other representatives. Other buildings on the Minnesota grounds are the agricultural hall, the dairy hall, the fish and game building, the poultry building, sheep barn, hog barn, machinery hall, manufacturers' building, etc., in addition to the trotting stables, the horse and cattle stables, the machinery sheds, the amphitheater, the grand stand, the hotel, and the dwelling-house. This latter is a two-story brick structure, which, besides providing the secretary with a comfortable home with all modern conveniences, contains well-equipped permanent offices for the secretary and a meeting place for the directors. The secretary, therefore, lives on the grounds, always in close touch with his work and the interests in his charge, and besides a home he is provided a stable, horses, carriages, and a man to care for them. Mr. E. W. Randall, who extended us every possible courtesy, is the present efficient secretary.

On the grounds they have a mile track and a half-mile track, the shorter one inside of the other, but so arranged that its starting point and home stretch are in front of the grand stand, but just inside of the main track. Their principal purses are for trotters and pacers, though they have at least one running race each day of the fair; but while their stakes for harness horses are from \$1,000 to \$5,000, their stakes for runners are from \$200 to \$500.

This State has had experience at its fairs with pool-selling and book-making, and without them, and the result is a condemnation of the pool-selling privilege under State auspices. I have before me a statement of their receipts for every year down to and including 1889. At that time pools were sold on the State Fair grounds, the Society was paid for the privilege, and the receipts from all sources aggregated \$62,000. The press of the State severely criticised the management for permitting pool-selling, and the people, particularly the producers, relaxed their interest in the annual fairs. In 1891 the total receipts dropped to \$48,000. The succeeding year they dropped to \$42,000. In 1893 (Chicago World's Fair year) they had no fair, but in 1894 the total receipts of the Minnesota State Fair, from all sources, pools, privileges, and admissions, with two big cities at the gates to draw from, amounted to only \$33,500. By this time the press had become rampant

and the farmers were quitting the institution entirely. The Legislature, at this time, in deference to a growing public sentiment, abolished all pools and other gambling devices and cut out other objectionable concessions and so-called attractions. The year following 1895, they had a better fair in the industrial and live-stock departments and their total receipts rose to \$49,000. The doubting directors became convinced that they could sustain a fair without the aid of the pool-box, and all bent their efforts for better fairs on industrial lines. The next year, 1896, their receipts rose to \$55,500. They have been jumping up ever since. In 1900 the receipts were \$90,000, in 1901 they passed the hundred-thousand-dollar mark, with a total of \$113,800. They have continued to climb with the growth and improvement of the State and the growing confidence and interest of the people, and this year, 1906, the receipts from all sources aggregated the magnificent sum of \$279,647. In 1904 a bill was introduced in the Minnesota Legislature to permit the selling of pools again on the State Fair grounds. Such a successful fair as this had become offered too rich a harvest for the pool people to let it alone. Then it was that the *Breeder and Sportsman* of San Francisco made this comment: "There were four times as many paid admissions in 1904 as in 1894. The increase was largely from the farmers. With the farm papers and other leading papers opposed to the fair, as they will be if gambling is introduced on the grounds at any time, the fair will be ruined again."

I have referred more in detail to this feature of Minnesota's experience because of its significant application to the present situation in California.

It may be said here that the conditions for the running races at the Minnesota State Fair are the same as those for the harness races. The Society guarantees a certain purse and makes the conditions so much to enter and the payment of a certain per cent of the winnings.

Two buildings on the Minnesota grounds might be taken as models, the live-stock amphitheater, heretofore referred to, and the fish and game building. The latter is finished inside as a grotto, the walls and arched ceiling being of cobblestones laid in cement, while along each side are seven aquariums facing wide aisles, and between the aisles a center court for the installation and display of game. At either side of the entrances at each end the walls afford space for maps, charts and pictures.

In Minnesota the Fair management in years gone by campaigned for exhibits, but now their greatest trouble is how to accommodate all who apply for space.

While the regular State appropriation to the Minnesota Agricultural Society is only \$4,000 a year, the Legislature has been very liberal in special appropriations to assist in the erection of new buildings and other permanent improvements.

IOWA.

Mr. J. C. Simpson is the efficient secretary of the Iowa State Agricultural Society and G. C. Fuller his able assistant. These gentlemen gave me their time during my visit to Des Moines and extended every facility for acquiring information regarding their work. Their offices are in the capitol building. Iowa has a very strong State Agricultural Society, and holds large and profitable fairs. Their attendance and cash receipts are not equal to those of Minnesota, but Des Moines, the city at which their fair is held, has only 75,000 people as against nearly half a million people in the cities bordering the Minnesota fair grounds. This may largely account for the difference in attendance. All their buildings and attractions are in one inclosure. Their general admission is 50 cents until 5 o'clock P. M., after that 25 cents, grand stand 25 cents, bleachers 15 cents, reserved seats in grand stand 50 cents. They make a strong feature of vaudeville and other special attractions, especially for evening entertainment, when they resell their grand stand seats for more than enough to pay the performers.

They get only \$1,000 a year from the State, which goes toward their insurance. The Society is and has been self-supporting, except in the matter of an occasional special appropriation for buildings, etc. It has eleven directors, one from each congressional district in the State, and they are elected by the representatives of a State Agricultural Convention composed of delegates chosen by County Agricultural Societies and other farmers' organizations. No party consideration enters into the choice of directors, the conditions being that the candidate must be a resident of the congressional district in which the vacancy occurs and qualified for the special duties he is supposed to assume. Each director is superintendent of a department, and the candidate must be qualified to superintend the department his predecessor is about to vacate. In getting up the annual fairs each director is held largely responsible for the success of his department, and while this involves some work and hustle on the part of directors it insures good fairs and proportionately large gate receipts.

The Society gives a race program each day, devoted largely to harness horses. Out of four races a day they have one for runners, and while their largest purse for runners is \$150, their largest purse for harness horses is \$1,000. The conditions are the same for running and harness races, five per cent to enter and five per cent of the winnings. Their total purses this year amounted to \$9,000, while from privileges alone they took in \$16,000. Their total receipts this year from all sources were \$111,767, and their total expenses \$73,511, leaving a balance on the profit side of the ledger of \$38,256. They permit no pool-selling, no book-making, no strong drinks, no games of chance, and no concessions

that have any objectionable features. In six years they have put \$119,000 of Society earnings into new and permanent improvements. They have beautiful grounds and good buildings. Their building for the display of agricultural, horticultural, and dairy products cost \$47,000. It is 125 by 275 feet in dimensions, and designed specially for the purpose intended. Their women's building, intended mainly as a resting place, includes a nursery and accommodations for a doctor, with rooms for cots for whoever may be accidentally injured or taken suddenly sick. Their poultry house is 100 feet square (too small), with an annex for poultry appliances and poultry supplies. Their coops are partly home-made and partly patent. Their building designed for the display of liberal arts and the exhibits of merchants has fine permanent cases, supplied by the Society, and these materially lessen the cost of installation to the exhibitor. There are cases for the house-wife's bread, biscuit and cake; for the daughter's painted china and needlework; for the harnessmaker's output; for the beekeeper's honey and for his live bees; for the merchant's silk and the mother's jelly. These set off the interior of the building, and once built, and well and neatly built, they are there for this year and next year, and future years.

In the dairy department, Iowa has a refrigerator for butter and cheese that might be taken as a model. I saw other refrigerators on the same general plan, but none better for the cost, which was \$480. In size it is about 10 by 20 feet, and about 12 feet high, including the heavy molding cornice. In the center is a large ice box, with an opening through to the roof to receive the ice. The sides are glass, in plates about 4 feet wide and 5 feet high, beginning at a paneled base about 18 inches above the inside floor. Against the glass on the inside are slatted shelves for the display of dairy products that require a cool atmosphere. This refrigerator stands as an ornament in the center of the dairy department, while across from a 12-foot passageway around it are low-railed apartments for the exhibit of separators, churns, and the multitude of other modern dairy appliances.

They have fine stock display buildings, independent of their racehorse stables. Their exhibition buildings have no floor except the packed earth, which they cover with ground bark or sawdust. They claim they can keep them clean this way at less expense and that they are more sanitary.

They encourage farmers to bring their families and camp on the grounds during fair week, and they have a beautiful park-like section set apart for this purpose, with sanitary provisions and water for man and beast.

Outside of their machinery sheds a large piece of ground is set aside for the display of wagons, farm machinery, fencing, windmills, and other articles that will not suffer by exposure to the weather. This

outside department is common to all Eastern fairs, some of them covering as much as twenty acres with this character of exhibits, and it is this department, where everything can be found from the latest hayrake or stacker to the newest corn-husker or traction engine, that particularly interests the farmer who is looking for the best device to economize his labors or outlay.

Iowa charges \$2 for exhibitors' tickets, and in addition \$2 a stall for horses and cattle, and \$1 a pen for swine and sheep. In other than the live stock department the exhibitor's ticket carries with it space and other privileges.

ILLINOIS.

Mr. W. E. Garrard is the able secretary of the Illinois State Agricultural Society. He has held the office for more than twenty years and is as clever and accommodating as he is well informed. His office is also in the State Capitol building. Indeed, all the secretaries of all the states I visited have their offices in the capitol building, along with other State officials, excepting in Minnesota.

In Illinois they charge \$2 for exhibitors' tickets, and in addition \$2 a stall for horses and cattle, and \$2 a pen, or 50 cents a head, for swine and sheep. In the machinery and dairy departments they also charge exhibitors 5 cents a square foot for space. In the other departments an exhibitor's ticket carries with it space and other privileges. The Society has twenty-six directors, one from each congressional district, elected for two years by a convention composed of representatives of county societies or other farmers' organizations, similar to the Iowa method. Mr. Garrard says there is no party politics at all in the Society, and they don't want any, as they are organized for another purpose.

They have running and harness races, entrance fee in running races five per cent of purse, and in harness races five per cent to enter and five per cent of winnings. They have no pools or books, and admit no gambling devices, strong drinks, or other objectionable features on the grounds, and they issue no return tickets. Their program includes five races a day—two for runners and three for harness horses. Their stakes for runners are from \$200 to \$500, and for harness horses from \$600 to \$1,500, the latter amount being for a free-for-all trot. They approve and practice the single-judge idea in determining the merit of all exhibits. Their buildings and exhibits are all in one inclosure, a park and race track embracing 156 acres, to which they charge a general admission for adults of 50 cents, and 25 cents extra for a seat in the grand stand. Their grand stand contains a row of one hundred boxes along the front, and each box contains six chairs. These boxes are sold for \$10 each for the season, and they always sell.

The Illinois fair grounds contain some splendid buildings. The

most striking one in appearance is what they call the Dome Building, used for the display of agricultural and horticultural products, built of brick and surmounted by the great dome (189 feet in diameter) that ornamented the Agricultural Building at the Chicago World's Fair, admittedly the largest dome on this continent. They also have a splendid live-stock amphitheater, or, as they call it, a coliseum, which is 225 by 325 feet in dimensions, oval shape, and capable of seating 6,000 people. One brick building for the exhibit of liberal arts and displays made by merchants, 127 by 340 feet in dimensions, contains very elaborate cases and cabinets all ready for the reception of show material. They have splendid buildings for horses, cattle, sheep, swine, and poultry, all constructed after the most approved plans. The cattle barn is 110 by 220 feet and will comfortably house 300 cattle. The poultry house is 90 by 150 feet and will accommodate 1,000 coops or about 2,500 birds, besides affording room for feed and a display of poultry appliances.

The Illinois exhibition buildings all have cement floors, which are durable and easily kept clean. But the feature in which the Illinois State Fair is unique and distinctive is in its Women's Building and women's work. The Women's Building is a neat and imposing brick structure erected at a cost of \$25,000. It contains, besides large parlors, a lecture hall, a hospital, a nursery, kitchen, dining-room, storerooms, and a one-hundred-bed dormitory. Here any Illinois farmer's wife or daughter can come one week before the opening of the fair and, by paying \$7, have a home for two weeks, including the fair week and all its attractions, and enjoy the benefit of lectures by the best authorities on domestic economy, and the practice of what they are taught. They do their own cooking, make their own beds, and indeed go through as thorough a course of housefurnishing and housekeeping under approved instructors as is possible in the time. They say the girls and women who take the course go home and put their training into practice, and the result is manifest in a marked improvement in the external and internal neatness, as well as the better arrangement and conveniences, of the rural homes of the State. The \$7 is intended to cover net cost, and in the opinion of Mr. Garrard it is the most popular work the Society is doing.

The regular State appropriation to the Society is only \$5,000 a year, yet the State has been very liberal in special appropriations for new buildings and other permanent improvements. It is estimated that the improvements alone on the grounds represent an expenditure of \$908,000. The City of Springfield, where the fair is held, has a population of only about 50,000, but in spite of this small environment their meetings are well attended and the receipts at the fairs are always more than the expenses. They get a very favorable rate for visitors

from the railroads, and the people attend in large numbers from all parts of the State.

It is part of the duty of the Illinois Agricultural Society to publish agricultural statistics and crop reports. After years of effort they have secured an efficient corps of correspondents, embracing four or five or more in each county of the State, and through these the information desired is collected, and, after being compiled in the form of bulletins, is sent out through a large mailing list to the press and the people. The blanks are made out by the secretary, and contain questions eliciting the information desired, with directions to return them on a certain day. The rest is a matter of computation and compilation. The item of expense for printing and postage is considerable, but in order not to hamper the work the directors of the Society impose no limit to the expenditures for these items, believing that the more bulletins and the better or more extensively they are distributed the better for the Society and the people.

INDIANA.

Charles Downing is the bright and capable secretary of the Indiana State Agricultural Society, and learning my identity and mission he laid aside all other duties and placed himself at my disposal.

This State, like the others I have mentioned, holds very successful State Fairs, and like the others the management renounces strong drink, pool-selling, book-making, and all other gambling devices. They believe in side entertainments for the people, but are very particular in the character thereof, as well as in the character or kind of concessions granted. This year they paid out \$5,500 for side entertainments, including \$3,500 for an airship, which latter they claim proved a profitable attraction.

The State and crop statistics in Indiana are collected and published by another department, and therefore all the Agricultural Society does is to promote and hold an annual State Fair. They have fifteen directors, elected, as in some of the other states, by representatives of County Agricultural Societies. A director is superintendent of each department, and is held largely responsible for the success of the same. Their regular State appropriation is only \$1,000 a year, and yet the State, in common with the custom in other states, does a great deal in the way of special appropriations for new buildings, etc.

All their buildings and attractions are in one inclosure, a park of 214 acres, located four miles from the center of the city, and the price of general admission is 50 cents, with 25 cents extra for a seat on the grand stand. They have a good program of trotting and pacing races for purses varying from \$500 to \$1,000, but they have no running races at all. The conditions for these races are five per cent to

enter and five per cent of the winnings. The city furnishes experienced policemen for guards at \$2.25 a day.

As indicating the growth of the Society and the success of its fairs, it may be stated that their total receipts this year from all sources were \$105,000, as against a total of \$61,000 three years ago. They charge \$2 for exhibitors' tickets, and \$2 and \$1.50 for stalls for horses and cattle, according to quality, and \$1 for sheep or hog pens, but no charge in any department for space. They do no campaigning for exhibits, as voluntary applications take all their space. They issue special admission tickets for merchants' clerks, which are bought in large quantities by merchants, manufacturers, and other employers for complimentary distribution among their employés. This custom has become established in the State and it helps the fair materially.

Their grounds contain two tracks, a mile track and a half-mile track, and their grand stand, 550 feet long, seats 6,000 people. Their horse barns, cattle barns, sheep sheds, and swine sheds are so arranged as to form a center court used for showing the stock before the judges. Indeed, I think the plan of the Indiana sheep and swine barns is as good as any I saw.

The refrigerator in the center of the dairy building is a very neat and convenient one, and I took notice that it was built by the McCrary Refrigerator and Cold Storage Company of Kendallville, Indiana.

OHIO.

Ohio is interesting in that it is supposed to have the best State Fair buildings, as a whole, of any State in the Union, and from what I saw I think this claim is well founded. Mr. T. L. Calvert, the secretary, was not home during my visit, but his very able assistant, Mr. J. W. Fleming, extended every courtesy and gave me all the information desired.

They collect and publish agricultural statistics and crop reports, supervise County Agricultural Societies, and conduct Farmers' Institutes. They have about 1,500 agricultural correspondents in their statistical department and thirty odd Institute lecturers. The latter are paid by the counties out of a fund appropriated by the Legislature for that purpose. The State regularly appropriates \$26,000 a year for the support of the department, but the fairs must pay their own expenses. This year they took in from all sources \$61,000, as against \$58,000 last year, and from this revenue they have no trouble in holding annually a very creditable exhibition. Their splendid buildings, of course, were built mainly out of funds provided by special State appropriations. They have ten directors, who are chosen by the presidents of the County Agricultural Societies at the latter's regular annual sessions. There is no district regulation as to the residence of

a director. They have races for harness horses, but none for runners. They do not, and never did, permit pool-selling or bookmaking on the fair grounds, and all gambling devices and intoxicating beverages are excluded. All their attractions are within one inclosure, a park of 115 acres, located two and a half miles from the business center of Columbus, a city of about 200,000 population. They do no exploitation work, but spend about \$5,000 a year for advertising. The price of admission to the grounds is 50 cents and 25 cents, with grand stand seats extra. This year the grand stand netted \$3,800. For side attractions they paid this year \$3,000 for an airship and \$1,000 for other features. They issue no exhibitors' tickets, but require all exhibitors to pay their way the same as other visitors; exhibitors' helpers are given free admission. They make no charge for space, but in the live-stock departments they impose an entrance fee of five per cent of the amount of the first premium. The conditions for harness races are five per cent to enter and five per cent of the winnings. The one central aim of the Ohio Society is to help interest and educate the farmer.

Their buildings are practically all brick, except the grand stand, and when I was there the old one was being torn down to make room for a new one to be constructed of steel and concrete at a cost of \$50,000. To accommodate their machinery and implement exhibits they have three buildings, each 100 by 400 feet in dimensions, and ten acres of outside grounds.

The State Highway Commission conducts annually an exhibition of practical road building on the fair grounds, the machinery for the purpose being gladly supplied by the manufacturers.

Their sheep barn, with open sides and slate roof, is 180 feet square; the swine barn is of the same size and built on the same plan. Their poultry house is 120 feet square; it is built of brick, with open sides above a wall about four feet high, with wooden shutters to close the openings when required. The cattle barn is 240 feet square and will stall 600 cattle, and the horse barn is 332 feet square with accommodations for 500 horses, including about 100 single box stalls. This is for show horses; their race stables are separate. These buildings each have a center court for judging purposes. The courts have gallery seats for the people. Their horticultural building, agricultural building, vehicle building, merchandise building, textile and household building, and fine carriage building are constructed of brick, and are each 100 by 200 feet in dimensions. Their women's building is used exclusively for the display of women's work, and their art building for a combination bazar and fine arts display.

KANSAS.

The State Board of Agriculture of Kansas does not hold a State Fair. Years ago it did, but finally the members resolved that it was no part of their legitimate work and they abandoned the fairs to private enterprise and devoted their efforts to the collection and distribution of farm and live stock and other industrial statistics, and to the compilation and distribution of literature directed mainly toward the question of how to farm in Kansas in order to make Kansas farming profitable. The Society had done much to promote immigration to Kansas, but when it noticed that people were going out of the back door of the State faster than they were coming in at the front door—that Kansas farmers were sacrificing their holdings and leaving the State—the Agricultural Society set to work to ascertain the cause and apply the remedy. They found the cause to be lack of an intelligent understanding of Kansas conditions and consequent inefficient methods of farming. The remedy lay in the work of enlightening the farmers regarding local conditions and in encouraging them to adopt methods and crops in harmony therewith. This was a great work, but it was undertaken on intelligent and energetic lines, and the result has brought about a revolution in the stability, development, and prosperity of that once bleeding State. It is in this work that F. D. Coburn, the secretary of the Kansas State Agricultural Society, has made himself famous throughout the country, and it is by reason of the thoroughness of the Kansas statistical department, presided over by J. C. Mohler, Mr. Coburn's able assistant, that their figures are regarded as the most complete and reliable of any issued by State authority.

Their State appropriation covers simply salaries, traveling expenses, printing, and postage, the latter item amounting to no small sum. Their method of collecting statistics, while very thorough, is very simple. Under the law the county or local assessors are required to obtain answers from each individual assessed to questions comprehending all the information the Agricultural Department desires. These questions are answered on the 1st of March, when the crops are mostly in the ground, and when the farmer can tell how many acres he has or will have in wheat, in oats, in corn, in rye, in fruit, in vegetables, or in any other product. He can tell then just exactly the amount of his several crops the year before, and he can tell just how much stock he has, the number of each kind, and the breed of each. The manufacturer also can give the number of his employés, the amount of his output, and the amount paid in salaries. The questions comprehend everything calculated to reveal the industrial conditions of the State. The acreage of each product being known, it is easy during

the growing season to obtain, through correspondents, an estimate of the relative condition of crops and therefrom foretell very accurately the output of the State on any one product or on all products. The system impressed me as simple, yet complete and effective.

NEBRASKA.

The Nebraska State Agricultural Society holds annual fairs, and they are good ones. This year they took in from all sources \$70,000, out of which they cleared about \$30,000. Their admission fee is 50 cents, and grand stand 25 cents. Until eight years ago the State Fair was, figuratively speaking, on wheels, being held different years at different cities. Under this arrangement it ran steadily behind. Finally it was located permanently at Lincoln, the capital of the State, a city with a present population of about 60,000, and since then it has built up very rapidly. Its grounds are convenient and contain some good buildings and its management is very efficient. There are twenty-nine directors, who hold office for two years. They are selected by representatives of County Agricultural Societies, and enterprise and aptitude for the duties of the office are the qualifications that generally command the most votes. The directors delegate a great deal of their work to a board of managers, consisting of five members. These five, along with the secretary, constitute the working body, and from what I could learn during a short visit they are workers.

Their race program includes four events a day—three harness races and one running race. The purses for runners are \$100, and for harness horses from \$500 to \$1,000. The entrance fee is three per cent of the purse and five per cent of the winnings. The Labor Bureau of the State collects industrial statistics, but they are published annually in the Agricultural Society's report. They do no campaigning for exhibits, and yet get all they can accommodate. This year twenty-six counties made separate exhibits of their resources. Nebraska makes no charge for space or for exhibitors' tickets, and imposes no entrance fee except for races. The State Horticultural Society holds its annual exhibit on the State Fair grounds, the same date as the State Fair. Their grounds, in which all attractions are held, consist of seventy-five acres, located one and a quarter miles from the center of the city. They have paid expert judges in all departments. The Society receives \$25,000 a year from the State, at least \$1,000 of which must be paid in premiums. They have a large poultry house, but exhibitors supply their own coops. Their other principal buildings are the agricultural building, horticultural building, dairy building, bee building, fish and game building, stock pavilion, besides horse, cattle, sheep, and hog barns. Mr. W. R. Mellor is the able secretary of the

Nebraska Agricultural Society, and a Mr. Scully is the accommodating custodian of the Society's buildings and grounds. They permit no pool-selling or book-making on the grounds, and all strong drinks and other questionable concessions are barred.

GENERAL REMARKS.

None of the Eastern fairs charge as much for exhibitors' tickets as we do in California. Most Eastern fairs charge stall rent for live stock, some charge for space in certain departments, all make a special charge for grand stand privileges. None allow gambling or chance devices on the grounds, none allow strong drinks, and none allow pool-selling or book-making. Railroad rates to State Fair visitors in the East and Middle West are in no case more than half the regular rate, or a round-trip ticket for a one-way fare. In Nebraska 50 cents is added to the price of the ticket, but this entitles the purchaser to one admission into the fair grounds. The arrangements for carrying exhibits are similar to those in California. Most of them get out a catalogue of live stock entries for fair visitors, and the catalogue number of the animal is usually posted in large figures over the animal's stall. The same number is hung on the breast and back of the boy who leads the animal into the judging ring.

One material help to the Eastern and Middle West fairs is the fact that many exhibitors of live stock and many large manufacturers take in the circuit, the same exhibits the same year helping to swell the displays of anywhere from two to half a dozen State Fairs. It is a common thing for manufacturers to own their own buildings on the Eastern fair grounds. We saw the building of one big manufacturing firm on at least five different State Fair grounds.

A few of the Eastern states give diplomas, but none give medals, except sometimes in the case of a special feature it may be that one special gold or silver medal is offered. Cups are sometimes offered in special cases. They all agree that their exhibitors prefer the cash. One State that I visited gave a gold medal this year, in addition to its cash prizes, to the creamery that made the best and most artistic display of its products.

Few of the Eastern societies use the colored lithograph circus poster in advertising their fairs; these are and have for a long time been used in California. Some get out hangers announcing their special attractions, but most of them incline to neat cards containing some attractive and appropriate picture, or a calendar, with simply the fair dates printed thereon, and a brief request to address the secretary for premium list and further particulars. The date, they claim, is the vital point to impress. These, the Eastern secretaries say, with such

preliminary reading notices as the papers are always willing to give, supplemented with a few short display advertisements impressing at important points again the dates and railroad rates just before the opening, do the business.

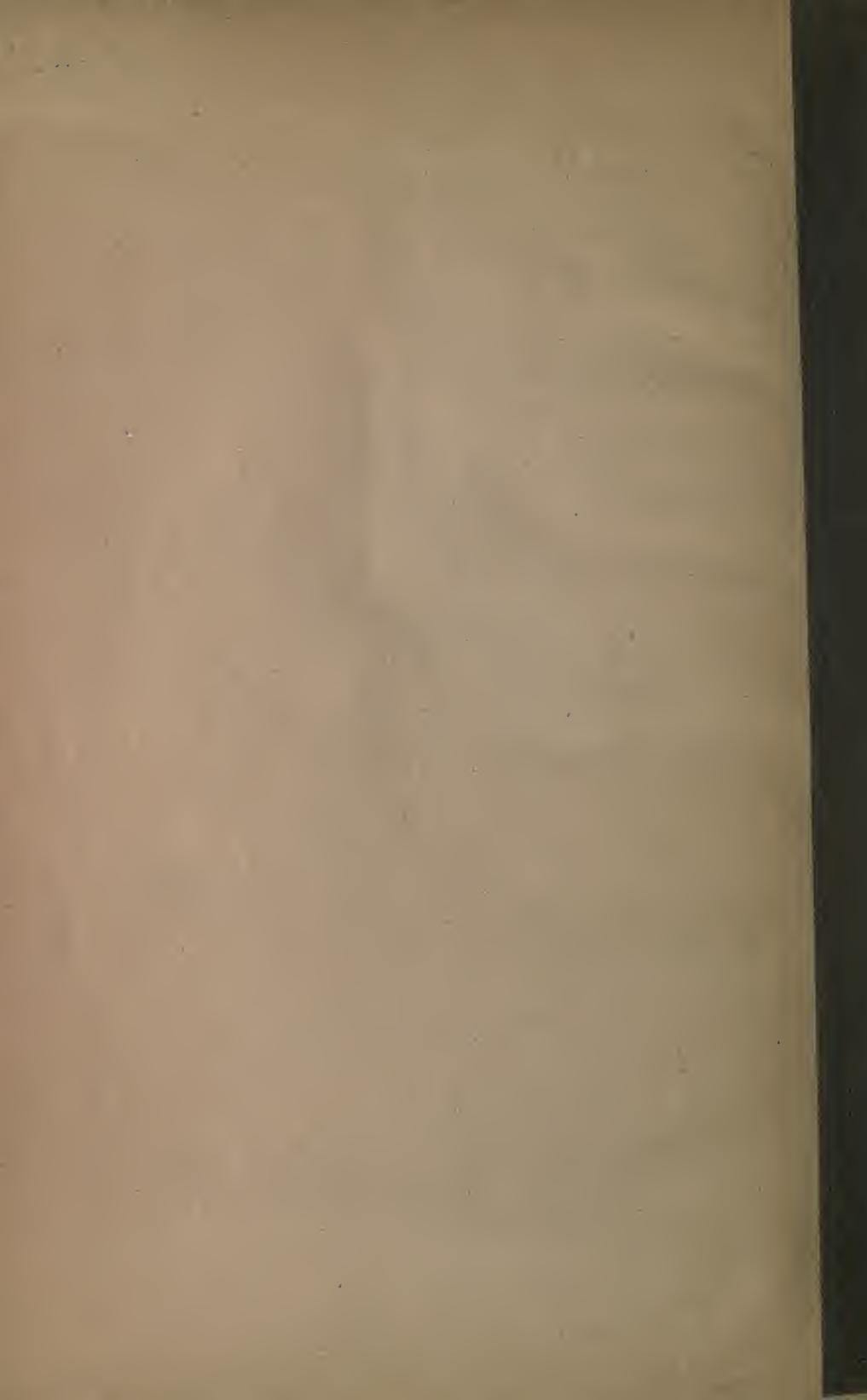
Few State Fairs in the East have buildings with galleries, and those that have them wish they were out.

All the Eastern fairs make much of saddle horses, saddle ponies, hackney horses, cart ponies, buggy horses, carriage horses, roadsters, etc. Then again, matched farm teams, fast walking teams, farmers' rigs (wagon, harness, and team), etc., not omitting the mule in its proper place, are all features of interest, of rivalry, and of great attraction.

Finally, the fair Societies visited are all doing good work and holding successful fairs. This is made possible by their splendid equipment. The Legislature in each State has been very generous in providing means for the equipment. The California Society has started on the right track. It has cut from under it the ground of criticism. It has a fine park, central in the State, and with proper equipment, which this big, rich State can afford, and which the Legislature ought to provide, it can expand its work in many desirable directions, and in turn hold as fine fairs as any State in the Union.

Respectfully,

J. A. FILCHER,
Secretary California State Agricultural Society.



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ATMOSFERA - 80%
NAT. 20% ARGON

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S551

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